

DOCKET NO.: TAK-0357
Application No.: 09/724,979
Office Action Dated: March 9, 2004

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. Claims 3-7 stand allowed, and claims 1 and 2 stand rejected. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, and no claims have been added. Thus, upon entry of the present amendments, only allowed claims 3-7 will be pending in the present application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and a Notice of Allowance.

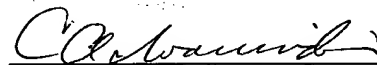
Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 2 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,041,780 (Rippel). Applicant respectfully submits that the present rejection is moot in view of the above cancellation of claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims stand allowed. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner believes the present application is not allowable for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

Date: June 9, 2004



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